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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meeting of the corporation of Yale University on September 18, Sir William Osler, regius professor of medicine at Oxford, was appointed Silliman lecturer for 1912, and Dr. Joseph P. Iddings, until 1908 professor of petrology in the University of Chicago, and now engaged in geological research, was appointed lecturer for 1913.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been awarded the Cameron Prize in practical therapeutics by the University of Edinburgh in recognition of his work in cerebrospinal meningitis. In accordance with custom Dr. Flexner has been invited to deliver an address at the University of Edinburgh during the coming academic year.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association notes that the tenth volume of the *Archiv für Orthopädie* is dedicated to Gustav Zander on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. The first nine articles describe Zander's work and apparatus for medico-mechanical exercises and the opening of his institute at Stockholm, Sweden, in 1865 and of similar institutions on this model in other countries. The benefits of these mechanico-therapeutic exercises in the various internal infections are emphasized by different authors. From 1880 until recently Zander was docent of medical gymnastics at the University of Stockholm.

THE Belgian Academy of Sciences has elected as foreign members Professors Emil Fischer and Simon Schwendener, of Berlin, and Professor J. Pawlaw, of St. Petersburg.

As a memorial to Noah Porter, formerly president and professor of philosophy at Yale University, it is proposed to erect a gate at the south end of University Avenue at a cost of \$18,000.

DR. JACQUES HADAMARD, professor of analytical and higher mechanics in the University of Paris, will give at Columbia University during the month of October courses on the calculus of variation and partial differ-

ential equations of physics. In addition he will give four general lectures on Saturday mornings at 10.30 A.M., as follows:

October 7—"The Definition of Solutions of Linear Partial Differential Equations by Boundary Conditions. How is the Problem to be Set?"

October 14—"On the Recent Applications of certain Mathematical Theories to Physical Problems: Ordinary Differential Equations, Integral Equations, Integro-differential Equations, etc."

October 21—"Analysis Situs, its Rôle in several Mathematical Questions, especially in Finite Correspondences and Differential Equations."

October 28—"Elementary Solutions of Partial Differential Equations and Green's Functions, with Especial Attention to the Latter."

PROFESSOR O. P. HOOD, head of the department of mechanical and electrical engineering at the Michigan College of Mines, has been appointed chief mechanical engineer of the Bureau of Mines with headquarters at Pittsburgh, Pa.

DR. DANIEL W. FETTEROLF has resigned as demonstrator of chemistry and toxicology in the University of Pennsylvania, to accept the position of acting assistant surgeon in the U. S. Army, with a permanent station in New York.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK STARR, of the University of Chicago, whose anthropological studies have covered Mexico, Japan and the Kongo, sailed from Seattle in August for Korea, where he will spend the next few months.

MR. GEORGE GARNERHAS arrived in this country from the French Congo, bringing with him for the New York Zoological Park a female gorilla, about eighteen months old. It is said to be the second gorilla which has reached this country alive.

SIR CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM has been selected president of the eighteenth International Congress of Americanists, to be held in London beginning on May 27, 1912. Applications of membership in the congress and titles of papers should be sent to the secretary, F. C. A. Sarg, Esq., Royal Anthropological Institute, Great Russell St., London.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science at its Portsmouth meeting,

constituted a new section devoted to agricultural science, to be known as Section M.

THE thirty-second meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, will be held at Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday, November 14, 1911, immediately preceding the convention of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. Headquarters will be at the Great Southern Hotel, where the sessions will probably be held.

A CALL has been issued by President Seth Low of the National Civic Federation for a meeting of the new Pure Food and Drug Department of the federation, which will be held in the rooms of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation on Monday, October 2. Among the speakers will be Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry; Dr. Thomas Darlington, ex-Commissioner of Health for the city of New York, and Dr. William C. Woodward, secretary of the American Public Health Association.

FOREIGN journals state that a special commission was recently appointed to study the utilization of aeroplanes for ensuring rapid communication with districts of the Belgian Congo that are still unprovided with railways and roads, and that it has been decided to await the results of certain tests to be carried out in France. Attempts will be made to traverse a desert about 750 miles across, and to establish landing stations 250 miles apart, fitted with wireless telegraphy. The aeroplanes will have to convey three passengers and a relatively heavy load of victuals, water, tools, etc. It is hoped that this line will be established in 1912. A first subsidy of \$80,000 has been voted for the establishment of these communications.

A COMMITTEE dealing with the hygienic aspects of illumination has been appointed by the minister of the interior in France. The objects of the committee include the general effects of illumination on health, the framing of simple rules as to the best means of applying customary systems of lighting to various industrial operations, the nature and causes of

short sight and impairment of vision, and their connection with defective living conditions, the study of methods of measuring illumination, etc.

WE take from the *Geographical Magazine* some details in regard to the Antarctic expedition of Dr. Douglas Mawson, who left London for Australia in June and is now completing the arrangements for the final departure of his expedition from Hobart before the close of the year. As promised to Dr. Mawson before he left England, a treasury grant of £2,000 towards the expenses of the expedition has been provided for; the Australian Commonwealth Government has made a grant of £5,000. His ship, the *Aurora*, which was built at Dundee in 1876, arrived in the Thames from Newfoundland in June, and was placed under the command of Captain J. K. Davis. After undergoing extensive alterations, she sailed from the West India Docks on July 27, was "swung" for the adjustment of her compasses under the direction of the Admiralty officials at Sheerness, and then proceeded to Cardiff to take on board supplies of coal, finally leaving these shores on August 4, bound for Cape Town and Hobart. She is a roomy vessel of her class, a little smaller than the *Terra Nova*, her dimensions being—length over all, 165 feet; breadth, 30 feet; depth, 18 feet; gross register, 580 tons. She is fitted with a compound engine of 98 nominal horse power, and is capable of a speed of 9 knots an hour. A new multitubular boiler was put into her in 1905, and under steam she consumes 11 tons of coal a day. For sailing purposes in the Antarctic seas, her rig has been altered from that of a schooner to that of a barquentine. The accommodation aft has been remodeled, so as to serve the requirements of the large scientific staff she will carry from Hobart to the shores of the Antarctic continent. Other alterations include the erection on deck of a biological and a general laboratory. Most of the staff will join in Australia, the only members sailing from England in the *Aurora*—besides the ship's officers—being Dr. Mertz, a Swiss zoologist, who is an experienced mountaineer, and who

won the Swiss ski-jump championship in 1908; and Lieutenant Ninnis, Royal Fusiliers, who will take part in the survey work. At the request of the Prince of Monaco, who has provided the expedition with its oceanographical equipment, Dr. Mertz went through a special course of training at the Monaco Oceanographical Laboratory and on board the *Princesse Alice*. A valuable equipment for magnetic work has been lent by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The *Aurora* carried, when she left England, forty-eight Greenland dogs, obtained through the kindness of the Danish Government, and a large number of Norwegian-built sledges, as well as the bulk of the stores and food supplies for the three parties which it is hoped to land between Cape Adare and the Gaussberg.

ACCORDING to the London *Times* a departmental committee consisting of Mr. Angus Sutherland, C.B., chairman, Mr. J. E. Sutherland, M.P., Mr. H. M. Conacher, Dr. T. Wemyss Fulton and Mr. J. Moffatt, has been appointed by the Secretary for Scotland to inquire into and report upon the character and national importance of the inshore and deep-sea fisheries of Norway and other countries engaged in the North Sea fisheries, and the efforts made for the development of the fishing and fish-curing industry in all its branches, including (1) the systems of fishery administration, including the constitution and function of the local committees formed for this purpose in Norway and of any similar organizations in the other countries; (2) the facilities provided for research and for educating and training those engaged in these industries, by the establishment of technical schools, museums, laboratories, classes or other special facilities; (3) the nature of the various means of capture employed and the methods (including any use of state credit) by which fishermen obtain the necessary capital to maintain the efficiency of their vessels and equipment; and to report in regard to each of the foregoing matters whether it would be advisable for similar action to be taken, with or without modifications, in the

case of the Scottish fishing industry, and, if so, what means should be adopted.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At the University of Pennsylvania Dr. R. M. Pearce has withdrawn from the chair of pathology and will confine his work to the chair of research medicine, and Dr. Allen J. Smith returns to the charge of the department of pathology, retaining at the same time the directorship of the laboratories of comparative pathology and tropical medicine.

DR. J. H. CLO, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed to the chair of physics in Tulane University.

DR. HOWARD T. KARSNER, demonstrator of pathology in the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed assistant professor of experimental pathology in Harvard University.

At the University of Maine, Dr. M. A. Chrysler, professor of botany, has been appointed head of the department of biology to succeed Dr. G. A. Drew, and Mr. H. M. Parshley has been appointed instructor in zoology.

DR. FRASER HARRIS, at present lecturer on physiology in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed professor of physiology in the Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

THE appointment of lecturer and demonstrator in the physical department of the East London College, vacant by the resignation of Mr. E. Marsden, M.Sc., on his election to the John Harling Research Fellowship at the University of Manchester, has been accepted by Mr. T. Harris, B.Sc., of the Imperial College of Science and the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge. Mr. Harris has been engaged in advanced research work under Professor Sir J. J. Thomson.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"WASHINGTON SCIENCE"

THE phrase which heads this communication appears now and then in print and may be assumed to have a depreciatory significance,

whether this is due to a mistaken estimate of the quality of research work done in that city under governmental supervision; or with a feeling that scientific men so employed have what in college slang is termed a "soft snap"; or to a vague impression that a man willing to accept government employment must necessarily be a lower order of being in his general class, or to all these ideas combined in varying proportions—can not be decided here. But it occurs to me that the experience of one who has spent nearly half a century in scientific work, under government auspices, might throw some needed light on the subject for those without similar experience.

It is to be premised that scientific men differ like other men in their temperaments, breadth of view and social training. Their interest in and devotion to a particular line of research does not divest them of the common frailties of mankind, whether in Washington or elsewhere. In the history of American science, the three least creditable and most bitter controversies which have affected the relations of scientific men were between scientists of a high order, not Washingtonians.

Civil service reform has changed for the better in many ways the conditions confronting those desiring to enter the service of the government. Yet the writer entered that service at a time when no such reform had been instituted, and from the first day to this date has never been asked what his politics were or requested to secure "influence" to maintain his position or obtain promotion. The fact that he was believed to possess certain qualifications for his work and has conducted it since appointment in a satisfactory manner has covered the whole ground.

So far as the writer knows, barring the changes due to civil service reform laws, this experience is not exceptional.

We hear much about "red tape" as an obstacle to efficient work. Now "red tape" means fundamentally the fixing of responsibility. This may be either financial or other. The uninformed critic does not realize that the function of "red tape" is reciprocal, that